

# UPDATE

OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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## DMHDD Funds Criminal Justice/MH Projects

The DMHDD recently allocated over \$400,000 to implement the recommendations of the Criminal Justice Task Force.

The 25-member group was appointed to examine issues and consider a course of action for Tennesseans with mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system.

DMHDD Deputy Commissioner Ben Dishman said part of the funding is designated to establish seven full time criminal justice/mental health liaison positions in counties with a population (1990 census) of 50,000 to 150,000.

The counties are to have in place or to develop a cooperative relationship with their local community criminal justice system.

The programs will be administered locally by community mental health centers.

Dishman said the program's purpose is to increase knowledge on issues that affect adults with mental illness who are incarcerated or at risk of incarceration.

"Hopefully, improving communication between the criminal justice and mental health systems will serve to link these individuals to case management and any other community services they need," he said. Grants of \$34,000 each were awarded to:

- Pathways of Tennessee to provide services in Jackson/Madison County.
- Centerstone Mental Health Centers for

Montgomery County/Clarksville.

- Three grants to Volunteer Behavioral Health for Rutherford County/Murfreesboro, Putnam County/Cookeville, Bradley County/Cleveland
- Ridgeview for Anderson County/Oak Ridge
- Frontier Health for Washington County/Johnson City.

The DMHDD also awarded two \$21,000 grants for training. The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-Tennessee and the Tennessee Protection & Advocacy Agency will use the funds to provide regional training sessions for community law enforcement personnel.

Volunteer Behavioral Healthcare System

provides education and training activities on the criminal justice system to liaison and other mental health personnel.

Dishman said the department also awarded grants of \$75,000 each to sponsor other mental health/criminal justice programs.

"We currently contract with Centerstone to provide a criminal justice/mental health liaison in the 23rd Judicial District. This involves Humphries, Houston, Stewart, Cheatham and Dickson counties.

"A Shelby County criminal justice diversion project pays for staff to provide assistance when the individual is released from custody. This involves the services of a release coordinator, resource builder and appropriate follow-up services," he concluded.

### IN MEMORY

#### Thomas Sellars

Graveside services were held in Newport News, Virginia on January 13 for Thomas V. "Tom" Sellars, superintendent of Memphis Mental Health Institute. Sellars died January 10 following an illness.

MMHI superintendent since May of last year, Sellars was a former administrator of the G. Pierce Wood Memorial Hospital in Arcadia, Florida.

Memorial services were also held in Memphis.



At the podium, Kelly Yenawine, executive director of Pathways of Tennessee, signs a contract with the DMHDD for a grant to establish a criminal justice/mental health liaison position in Jackson/ Madison County. This grant is part of a \$400,000 statewide program to implement recommendations of the Criminal Just Task Force. Pictured from left are Liz Ledbetter, DMHDD criminal justice mental health liaison; Madison County Sheriff David Woolfork; City Judge Hugh Harvey; General Sessions Judge Blake Anderson; Emma Long, Pathways CJ/MH liaison; and Karon Utley, vice president of System Services for West TN Health.

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**State of Tennessee**  
**Don Sundquist, Governor**



Department of Mental Health and  
Developmental Disabilities  
3rd Floor, Cordell Hull Building  
Nashville, TN 37243  
615-532-6500  
[www.state.tn.us/mental](http://www.state.tn.us/mental)

Elisabeth Rukeyser, Commissioner  
Ben Dishman, Deputy Commissioner  
Melanie Hampton, Asst. Commissioner  
Mental Health Services  
Barbara Brent, Deputy Commissioner  
Mental Retardation Services  
Mack Rhea, Director, Division of  
Administrative Services

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Martha Robinson, Director  
Patricia Fortner, Editor  
Carol Smith, Associate Editor  
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## Around the State

### Craven Named Director of East Tennessee Regional Office of MR Services

John C. Craven, a professional in the field  
of administering services to persons with  
mental retardation and developmental  
disabilities, was recently named director of  
the East Tennessee Regional Office of the  
DMRS.

Rick Campbell, director of the  
Commission on Compliance, and DMRS  
Deputy Commissioner Barbara Brent,  
announced the appointment.

Craven held the post of acting regional  
director for the East Tennessee Office since  
last June when he replaced Janet Simons  
who became director of the Middle  
Tennessee Regional Office.

Craven has served the East Tennessee  
region in many capacities since his initial  
employment at Greene Valley in 1975. This  
includes stints as regional deputy director,  
director of quality enhancement and quality  
assurance surveyor and program consultant.

According to Brent, Craven's many  
capacities of service and strong background  
in quality enhancement and systems change  
well qualifies him for the work ahead. "His  
experience will prove valuable to our goals of  
providing comprehensive services to the  
people in East Tennessee who have need for  
them," she said.

Craven holds a bachelor's degree in speech  
pathology from East Tennessee State  
University (ETSU). In 1977, he earned a  
master's with a specialty in audiology from  
ETSU.

### Park Center Promotes Campbell; Names Officers and Board Members

Nashville's Park Center recently promoted  
Penny Campbell to associate executive  
director. She is based at the center's new  
location on Woodland Street where she  
oversees services. Campbell also directs the  
program's housing program.

New officers for 2000-2001 include  
Deborah Bright Johnson of BellSouth,  
president; James C. Phillips Jr., Whitney  
Johns & Company, 1st vice president;  
George Haley, 2nd vice president; Doug  
Berry, Bumpus, Hall, Myatt Thomason &  
Emery, treasurer; and Reginald Groves,  
Deutsche Bank, secretary.

Recently elected board members include  
Celeste Anderson of the American General  
Financial Group; Susan Gorman, community  
volunteer; Robin Merritt, attorney; Dr.  
Richard Treadway, Medical Properties of  
America; and Vernon Westrich of Behavioral  
Health Corporation.

### Quinco MHC Names Members to Board

Quinco Mental Health Center recently  
named four members to its board of directors.

They are Evelyn C. Robertson Jr. of  
Whiteville and Don W. Clift, Vann  
Pettigrew and Betty Rowland of Bolivar.

Robertson, former DMHDD commissioner,  
is executive director of Southwest Tennessee  
Development District.

Clift, a farmer and land developer, is a  
former educator and Hardeman County  
executive.

Pettigrew is the former industrial relations  
manager for Harman Automotive. Rowland  
is a homemaker and former teacher.

### Bertrand Heads MHA Public Policy Office

Anita Bertrand was  
recently named  
director of the State  
Public Policy Office of  
the Mental Health  
Associations of  
Tennessee. As such,  
she will coordinate all  
public policy and  
advocacy functions of  
the Tennessee associations.



Bertrand was formerly the executive  
director for the East Side Catholic Center  
and Shelter, Inc. in Cleveland, Ohio—an  
emergency shelter and residential treatment  
program for homeless women and their  
children.

She also has an extensive background in  
early childhood education and was an  
assistant director for the Collinwood  
Community Services Center for Childhood  
Education in Cleveland. Bertrand holds a  
bachelor's degree in business management  
from Notre Dame College of Ohio.

### Alternatives 2001 Set for Philadelphia in August

Alternatives 2001, the 17th annual  
conference for and by consumers of mental  
health services, will take place at the Loews  
Philadelphia Hotel, August 23-26.

It is organized by the National Mental  
Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse,  
which is based in Philadelphia.

Since the conference began, it has served  
as a forum where consumers/survivors meet  
to exchange ideas, renew old friendships and  
begin new ones.

While the program is not complete at this  
time, it is expected to include discussion on  
policy, research, treatment, education, and  
advocacy and organizing.

# Around the State

## Project BASIC Expands to Unicoi County

In January, Project BASIC (Better Attitudes and Skills in Children) expanded to Unicoi County in Northeast Tennessee.

The program is similar to existing Project BASICs in Carter, Greene, Hancock and Hawkins counties, but has a site-specific aspect such as the Climate Enhancement Project.

Neta Gross says the Climate Enhancement Project, part of the program in each participating school, enables the coordinator to get input from parents and teachers to determine what will provide the most benefit given the specific circumstances of each school.

Other schools have initiated community service projects, parenting classes and a clothing closet as a Climate Enhancement Project.

Gross says the Unicoi County program will attempt to reach a growing Hispanic population in the area. Parental consent forms are available in English and Spanish.

Additionally, the parent newsletter for Unicoi Elementary School includes pages in Spanish and English.

Project BASIC Programs are implemented by the DMHDD as funds become available. They primarily target rural areas with a goal to have one available in each county.

They are also to be expanded to other schools in these counties as funds are available.

## Highland Rim Launches School Counseling

Highland Rim Mental Health Center now provides students in Tullahoma City Schools with opportunities to receive counseling.

A spokesperson for the program said the goal is to improve student attendance and decrease behavior problems.

The program is also targeted to helping the students improve emotional stability, academic performance and repair relations between families and school officials.

Two school-based counselors from Highland Rim divide their time between the Tullahoma schools, serving as a support system for guidance counselors that are already in place.

The counselors, with parental consent, work with students individually or in-groups. They also observe children in the classroom and make recommendations on behavior modification or individual education plans for those in special education classes.

Funded through TennCare, plans call for the program to expand to Bedford County when a caseworker is in place.

Students may be self-referred or referred by a teacher, guidance counselor, parent, principal or social worker.



*Santa arrived in a Red SUV and various other vehicles bringing boxes upon boxes of clothes, candy and other gifts for the consumers at Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute. "Santa" is really a volunteer group called The Christmas Spirits—made up of employees of the State Legislature. Pictured from left are Nicki Yearwood, Robbie Farmer, MTMHI Superintendent Joe Carobene, Dorris Barnes, Linda Smith, Debbie Blanchard, Lynn Callarman, Tammy Rather, Volunteer Coordinators Sally Moore and Margie Yearwood, Deputy Commissioner Ben Dishman and Marie Anderson.*

## Happenings

- Clover Bottom Developmental Center recently honored two employees. Developmental Technician Malcom Lake, with the facility for the past six years, was named Employee of the Year. Bettye Petway, director of Vocational Services, was named Manager of the Year. Lake works in the Spruce Living Home. Petway has 18 years of state service, four of them at Clover Bottom.
- Tennessee Special Olympics has moved. The new address is 1900 12th Avenue South, Nashville. Phone - (615) 329-1375.
- Carol Witherington, a certified nurse specialist with Covenant Senior Health, has been awarded the Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing Award for 2000 of the American Psychiatric Nursing Association. Witherington provides mental health services to patients in long-term care and assisted-living facilities.
- Psychiatrist Dr. Stephen Moore recently began a psychiatric practice in Cookeville. Moore attended medical school at the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed psychiatric training at the St. Louis University Medical Center.
- The Alzheimer's Association of Middle Tennessee has moved to 4004 Hillsboro Pike, Suite 219B, Nashville, TN 37215. The phone number is (615) 292-4938 and the fax (615) 386-9768. The number for the national Alzheimer's Association is (800) 272-3900, [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)
- Cherokee Health Systems will open a psychiatric practice in Jefferson City. It will be located in the Medical Commons adjoining Jefferson Memorial Hospital. The organization's office will be in Suite 230.
- The University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawk women's basketball team recently raised more than \$4,000 to help the Martin Kiwanis Club eliminate Iodine Deficiency Disorder—a leading cause of preventable mental retardation. The team held a free throw shootout and collected pledges and donations from individuals and area businesses.





*Pictured at the TAMHO Annual Meeting and Trade Show are DMHDD Deputy Commissioner Ben Dishman (left) and Health Commissioner Fredia Wadley, M.D. (right), with E. Douglas Varney and Jim Causey Ph.D. Varney, chief executive officer of Frontier Health in Johnson City, is the newly elected president of TAMHO. Causey, executive director of Professional Counseling Services in Covington, is immediate past president. Dishman and Wadley addressed the meeting on "The Foundation for a New Era in Behavioral Health for Tennessee."*

## TAMHO Names State's Best At Providing MH Services

The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) recently recognized six professionals and organizations for accomplishments that contributed significantly toward the lives and well being of Tennessee's mentally ill. The list of honorees include:

**B.L. Freeman, Ph.D.**, president and chief executive officer of Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Chattanooga. Freeman is the recipient of the 2000 President's Award. Freeman has a 28-year career dedicated to providing services to the mentally ill and other troubled groups who need an advocate.

**Mary Rolando**, director of the Title 33 Revision Commission, was awarded the 2000 Frank G. Clement Award. A former assistant commissioner for DMHDD MH Services, Rolando served on many committees concerned with mental health issues and improving services.

**Ron Harrington** received the 2000 TAMHO Dorothea Dix Award. He is senior vice president of administrative services for Frontier Health, Johnson City. Harrington spent more than 40 years serving the mental health needs of citizens who live in the Tri-Cities region.

**Mary Alexander**, a 29-year school social worker for the Memphis City Schools, received the TAMHO Distinguished Service Award. She is known as a dedicated and hard working advocate for children with emotional disorders and their families.

The TAMHO Community Service Award was given to the *American Society of Interior*

*Designers, Tennessee Chapter, Chattanooga Association* located at Cleveland. This award recognizes non-compensated volunteers who support mental health organizations in their own community. The society adopted Magnolia Manor, a HUD sponsored eight-bed residential facility housing adults with severe and persistent mental illness.

The 2000 Media Award was presented to *The Leaf Chronicle*, a Clarksville newspaper, for outstanding coverage of behavioral health issues.

## TAMHO Elects 2001 Officers

**E. Douglas Varney**, president and chief executive officer of Frontier Health of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia, was recently named president of the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations. He succeeds **Jim Causey, Ph.D.**, executive director of Professional Counseling Services in Covington. Causey remains on the board as immediate past president.

**H. Earl Medley**, executive director of the Fortwood Center in Chattanooga, is the new president elect. And **Robert Vaughn**, executive director of Carey Counseling Center in Paris, serves as treasurer.

The secretary for 2001 is **Janet Whaley**, executive director of the Frayser Family Counseling Center in Memphis.

TAMHO is the provider network for mental health services organizations, most of which are mental health centers.

## Two Mental Health Firms Open in Middle Tennessee

Middle Tennessee patients who receive treatment for mental illness under the TennCare program and private patients with SPMI (serious and persistent mental illness) will have access to two new programs early this year.

A spokesperson for Options Behavioral Healthcare of Tennessee, Inc. said it plans to open its first community mental health center in Murfreesboro in February.

In addition, Comprehensive Community Care of Chattanooga, a not-for-profit operator of programs for patients with severe mental illness and substance abuse problems, will expand operations to Middle Tennessee in the spring.

**Chuck Klusener**, president of AdvoCare, operator of Premier and Tennessee Behavioral Health systems, said the two new programs plan to provide for an underserved population.

According to Klusener, the number of TennCare patients with SPMI increased 12 percent last year, to 68,000, while the TennCare population as a whole increased by only about 5 percent.

The Murfreesboro program is the first of its type in the area.

## Dede Wallace Awarded Grants and IBM Computer

Nashville's Dede Wallace Center recently received \$163,000 in grants to fund various programs including Project DIANE, a teleconferencing consortium located at Tennessee State University.

Ronald McDonald House Charities provided \$4,000 to purchase and install equipment for use in the Family Resource Center so preschoolers and their parents have access to such places as the Nashville Public Library, Cumberland Science Museum, Grassmere and other programs.

When fully operational, the preschool staff will partner with up to 65 consortium members for innovative distance opportunities for children in restrictive settings. Dede Wallace is seeking additional funding for this program.

The Therapeutic Preschool serves children, ages 30 months to 5 years, who have emotional or behavioral problems that often stem from abuse or neglect.

In addition to the grant for Project DIANE, Dede Wallace recently received additional grants and awards. These include \$150,000 from an anonymous donor to fund operation of the Therapeutic Preschool.

A \$9,000 grant was awarded by the Mick Foundation in Nashville to supplement teacher salaries. And IBM Corporation donated an IBM personal computer to the Wallace Academy for general academic training.

# MH Planning Council Examines Older Adults' Issues/Needs

A report issued in October by the Tennessee Mental Health Planning Council Older Adult Committee says the older adult population in Tennessee is increasing in numbers and will continue to grow at an ever increasing rate.

The report, which provides a comprehensive review of factors that impact mental health issues and needs of older adults, said that in 1997, one in eight adults were age 65 or older. Experts expect that number to increase to one in five between 2010 and 2030.

Although most older adults do not have a mental disorder/illness and cope well with the changes associated with aging, a large number do have serious mental health needs that affect the person, his or her family and the community at large.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, 20 percent of persons who are age 55 and older, experience specific mental disorders that are not part of "normal" aging.

Yet, the National Association of Mental Health Program Director's Presidential Task Force on Mental Health and Aging notes that the elderly remain the most underserved and inappropriately served population in mental health services.

The committee report says stigma often prevents older adults from admitting to any mental health concern. Also, older adults do not typically access mental health services through mental health professionals. They are most often gained through primary care physicians. Unrecognized or untreated mental health condition can be seriously impairing for this population.



*"Issues and Needs of Older Adults" was presented at the Mental Health Planning Council in November by James Whaley, executive director of the Commission on Aging, and Pam Sylakowski of the Division of Mental Health Services. From left are Marilyn Whaley from Adult Protective Services in the Department of Human Services, Sylakowski, Whalen and Mary Moran of Centerstone Mental Health Centers.*

Negative consequences and risks related to untreated mental disorders of older adults include increased functional impairment, inappropriate usage of health care services, cognitive disability, risk of unnecessary institutionalization, increased individual and family despair, and suffering and longer and less complete recovery from medical illness.

The report states that the rate of suicide is highest among older adults relative to all other age groups.

It also stresses that effective mental health interventions are available for the older population. Quality mental health care can impact the lives of older adults by implementing prevention, early assessment and diagnostic intervention and treatment strategies.

## MH Clearinghouse Develops Self-Help Kit

The National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse now has a special kit designed for advocates of special populations.

The Open Arms Self-Help Kit can be sent to people who are seeking resources. It contains hard-copy materials from the clearinghouse library, a comprehensive list of Web sites and a list of organizations and their contact information.

Whether the recipients are advocates, consumers or professionals, these kits provide a point at which individuals can begin research on their own.

The list of special populations who could benefit is extensive including members of most ethnic groups. It also includes people with a dual diagnosis of substance abuse and mental illness, people with physical disabilities and people who are homeless or live in rural areas.

Other populations covered include people of different sexual orientation, people with HIV/AIDS and those who are involved with the criminal justice system.

Groups represented are children and adolescents, older adults, women, mothers, families and providers.

Researchers are looking for additional information to add to the kit. To have your information included, write:

OPEN ARMS  
National Mental Health Consumers'  
Self-Help Clearinghouse  
1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 1207  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

To order a kit on any population, contact the Web site - [www.mhselfhelpa.org](http://www.mhselfhelpa.org)

You may also call 800-553-4539 or write to the above address.



*The DMHDD Board of Trustees held its final meeting in December. Pictured from left (front row) are Kay Blakney, Carolyn Pearre, Fran Clippard, Andy Fox, and Doug Fain. Back row: Carolyn Jones, Turner Hopkins, Mary Burrow and Ray Sinor. Effective March 1, under the changes brought about by the Revised Title 33 laws, the department will have a Statewide Planning and Policy Council—composed of a majority of consumers—to assist in planning programs and services and to advise on policy, budget requests and development and evaluation of services supports.*

## To Help Develop Children and Youth Programs

# Bob Benning Reports On Trip to Obninsk, Russia



Last fall, Bob Benning—along with a team from Oak Ridge and the surrounding area—went to Russia to assist Oak Ridge's sister city, Obninsk, in the development of programs for children and

youth.

Benning, CEO of Ridgeview Psychiatric Hospital and Center in Oak Ridge and President of the Mental Health Planning Council, reported to the council in November about the experience.

The majority of his 10-day stay was spent in Obninsk working with three physicians and an interpreter. Benning and the physicians developed a proposal that covers a five-year period. It focuses on a major goal of developing a private, not-for-profit entity responsible for securing funds and managing programs to prevent and resolve problems of mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse and related illnesses, including AIDS and Hepatitis B and C.

Obninsk is a city of 110,000. The family seems to be a fundamental value. In the evenings, he saw families walking hand-in-hand talking and laughing together. Drinking is a part of the eating process and

toasting one another is frequent with many expressions of mutual respect. Christianity is resurging as all of Russia deals with the many freedoms of their new and growing democracy.

Drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness and the related problems of AIDS and Hepatitis B and C are prevalent in the city and surrounding region. Treatment for mental illness is mostly non-existent, he said.

Estimates suggest at least 40 percent of youth in Obninsk use drugs and of that group, approximately 90 percent use marijuana and/or alcohol. In the outlying areas, it is estimated that 90 percent of the youth use drugs and alcohol, of that 80 percent are into hard drugs, including heroin.

It is not uncommon to see individuals, including youth, walking down the streets of Obninsk drinking beer and/or vodka, said Benning. He added that it was obvious that many had been heavy into marijuana. There are no laws governing the age to purchase alcohol. It was very disconcerting to see young kids buying beer and vodka, he added.

Benning has been in the process of contacting both national and international foundations to partner with in order to secure funds to implement all steps of the proposal. Benning ended his presentation by reflecting on how minuscule our problems really seem given all the problems being encountered by our friends in Russia.

## West Knoxville Couple Wins *News Sentinel* Award

Dick and Ann Ince, two west Knoxville residents are recent winners of the *News-Sentinel's* Community Cornerstone Award.

The newspaper reported that the award was given "for their work with the Florence Crittenton Agency, where for years they taught independent living skills and acted as a married couple role model for women in crisis."

Cile Matthews, executive director of the Florence Crittenton Agency, nominated the Inces for the award. "Many of the young women we serve have not had the experience of observing a positive marriage with the interactions of equality, independence, humor and caring intertwined," she told the paper. "Dick and Ann are able to communicate this through their role modeling efforts."

"Dick Ince told the *News-Sentinel* that a large part of what they do is to encourage the girls to continue their education.

They are taught such basics as how to buy a car, balance a checkbook, apply for a job, find an apartment and other practical living skills.

The couple also donated their library of teaching materials to the agency where it is combined with grants and other funding to incorporate independent living skills classes into a regular program.

Ann Ince serves on the board of the Tennessee Voices for Children and was part of the Title 33 Commission, which recently revised the laws for providing mental health care.

The Inces were awarded the Community Cornerstone Award as the fourth quarter 2000 winner for the newspaper's West area of coverage.

## Greene Valley DC Celebrates 40th Anniversary

A 40th Anniversary tea was held at Greene Valley Developmental Center (which opened December 15, 1960 as Greene Valley Hospital & School) on December 13. Many people joined in the celebration including those who once called Greene Valley their home.

John M. Jones, publisher of *The Greeneville Sun* was honored when Doug Fain of Greene Valley's Board of Trustees read a resolution naming the administration building "the John M. Jones Administrating Building."

The resolution said "Jones was the primary influence for location of a developmental center in Greene County and since the opening of GVDC in 1960, has continued to support and advocate for the people living and working at Greene Valley..."

"Through the years, the board observed that Jones has been a friend to Greene Valley and has given his support, guidance and leadership in many ways..."

Superintendent Henry Meece, Ph.D., thanked Jones for his tenacity in convincing the state to build a center in Greene County.

Jones said he felt that a developmental center would bring 200-300 jobs to the area. He never dreamed it would provide the 1,500 jobs as it does today. He added that Greene Valley has been a great asset to the county.



From left: Doug Fain reading resolution; John M. Jones, publisher of *The Greeneville Sun* and Henry Meece, Ph.D., GVDC superintendent. Photo courtesy of *The Greeneville Sun*.



# Report: Juveniles with MH Problems Need Help—Not Just Jail

Providing troubled youth with “humane and effective mental health support is an ethical and moral imperative,” according to a report released in December by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

The group’s 15th annual report to Congress and the president says that every year, this nation spends between \$10 and \$15 billion on the juvenile justice system.

**The Coalition for Juvenile Justice believes that youth and families should have access to high quality, integrated mental health and juvenile justice services, appropriate to their needs.**

Unfortunately, the majority of these dollars do not go toward the least-costly, more effective front-end prevention, intervention and treatment.

## Youth Villages Honored

Youth Villages, based in Memphis, was one of two programs receiving national recognition as a successful model for addressing the mental health problems of young offenders.

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice in Washington, D.C. recognized the program for giving “youth and families chances to make positive changes, while also improving community safety and saving taxpayer dollars.”

Youth Villages is a private, non-profit organization that incorporates the tenets of multisystemic therapy into its treatment.

It serves more than 2,000 boys and girls each year in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas.

The program was cited at a national press conference held in Nashville in December to release the coalition’s Annual Report.

The report, *Handle with Care: Serving the Mental Health Needs of Young Offenders*, notes that while treatment methods for young offenders with mental health problems that focus on rebuilding families and provide intensive mental health services are highly successful, their availability is rare.

Poverty, race, gender, language barriers and sexual orientation often unjustly block young offenders’ access to services.

Wraparound Milwaukee, a program that uses a “no wrong door” approach to working with juveniles was also recognized.



*Patrick Lawler  
President,  
Youth Villages*

The report was released at the State Capitol in Nashville in December by Robert Pence, coalition chairman and a former FBI agent.

The report asked for \$100 million in federal spending to create community mental health resources for youth and their families.

According to Pence, the real crime is that many youth with mental disorders must get arrested before they get mental health services.

The report says that as many as 50 to 75 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system nationally have mental illness.

Thirty-eight percent of the parents surveyed reported their child is in the juvenile justice system because they could not get needed mental health services outside the system. Custody of one child in five was relinquished to the state.

**“As many as 50 to 75 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system nationally have mental illness.”**  
——2000 Annual Report  
Coalition for Juvenile Justice

The report also asked for laws that ensured that no parents are forced to yield custody.

DMHDD Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser was a featured speaker at the press conference.



*DMHDD Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser with Robert Pence, 2000 national chair of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice during a press conference in Nashville.*

## Rogers Heads Arc of Tennessee/Staff Named

Walter Rogers, a former director of DMRS community services in Middle and East Tennessee, was recently named executive director of the Arc of Tennessee.

Rogers, a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, began his career by teaching special education in Lake County.

He later directed pre-school and adult programs in Gibson, Crockett and Dyer counties and was a survey coordinator for the DMRS.

Other professional service includes a stint as director of program services and executive director of SRVS — the Shelby Residential and Vocational Services.

Arc of Tennessee key appointments include

- Scott Alan Finney, administrative assistant;
- Steve Jacobs, assistant executive director;
- Mary Ann Schenk, project specialist;
- Peggy Cooper, office manager;
- Nicole Davidson, business manager; and
- Treva Maitland, Project Link specialist.

Project Link is Arc’s program to make



Tennessee’s school systems more accessible to persons with developmental disabilities.

The new location of the Arc of Tennessee is Metro Center, 44 Vantage Way, Suite 280 Nashville, TN 37228, phone (615) 248-5878, fax (615) 248-5879.

## Frontier Establishes Dual Disorders Program

Frontier Health’s Substance Abuse Services in Johnson City recently established a dual diagnosis program specifically tailored for persons with mental illness coupled with substance abuse.

Randall Jessee, Ph.D., vice president of Adult Outpatient Services, said the program is a “pilot that will provide information to the DMHDD.

“It’s important to produce some answers about the best way to treat people with dual disorders,” said Jessee. “About 35 to 40 percent of the patients Frontier serves are in this category.”

Frontier is one of two programs in Tennessee chosen to develop models of training and treatment to help case managers and therapists assess and treat persons who have mental illness and substance abuse disorders.

## Regional Conferences Planned

The regional Suicide Prevention Action Groups (SPAG) and the DHMDD are sponsoring five Regional Suicide Prevention Conferences this spring.

Holding regional conferences in 2001 is one of the 15 Tennessee suicide prevention strategies in an attempt to reach the grass roots level and individuals that have been affected by suicide.

The conferences dates are:

- Region I  
May 11  
Meadow View  
Conference Center  
Kingsport
- Region II  
May 11  
Place: to be announced  
Knoxville
- Region III  
May 21  
Place: to be announced  
Chattanooga
- Regions IV and V  
May 15  
Place: to be announced  
Nashville
- Regions VI and VII  
June 1  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
Memphis

For more information about these conferences, contact Janice Browne at (615) 298-3359.

**The Suicide  
Prevention  
number is  
1 (800) SUICIDE**

# SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

## Suicide Prevention Strategies on Web Site

The strategy for suicide prevention in Tennessee builds upon the 15 points raised in "the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Suicide 1999."

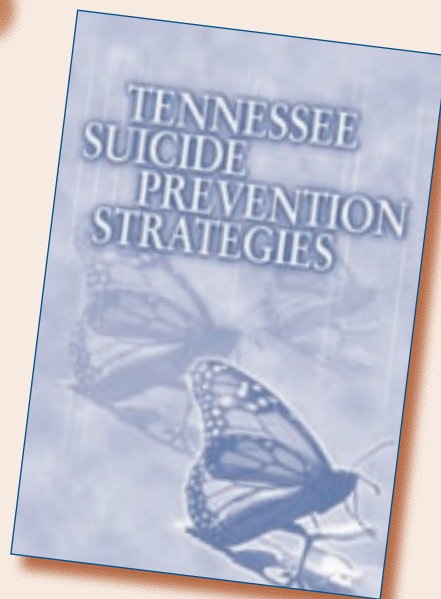
These 15 points have been published in a booklet by the DMHDD to be used in the upcoming regional suicide prevention conferences.

The booklet is also available on the department's Web site at [www.tn.state.us/mental](http://www.tn.state.us/mental) under Mental Health Services.

## Statewide Prevention Coordinator Named

Janice Browne was recently named the statewide coordinator for suicide prevention. Her office is located at the Crisis Intervention Center in Nashville, phone number (615) 298-3350.

Browne was formerly ombudsman for children and families at the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. She also is a former children's plan outcome reviewer, coordinator of the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force at the Commission and is an adjunct faculty member at Tennessee State University.



Department of Mental Health and  
Developmental Disabilities  
Office of Public Information & Education  
11th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243